

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-12 and 14 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Youssefzadeh (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,921), and claims 7 and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Youssefzadeh in view of Friman (WO 95/24789). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention, in portion relevant to this discussion, discloses a radio communication system having a radio subsystem for access by radio subscribers in a radio area, and having a switching center for switching through connections. To produce a link between radio subsystem(s), without a dedicated switching center, and the switching center, a radio transmission unit is connected therebetween. Hence, for connection control, for example for calls within a radio area, the user connections are switched through locally by an associated radio subsystem. In this regard, **only** the signaling connections are passed on via the radio transmission unit to the switching center. For calls between different radio areas, for example, connection control is performed such that switch through occurs, via satellite, **only** through the signaling connections to the switching center, and switches traffic channel connections between the different radio subsystems. This is recited, for example in claim 1, which states "switching through...only signaling connections from said radio transmission unit to said switching center" and, for example claim 10, which states "a radio transmission unit...only signaling connections are switched through from said radio transmission unit to said switching center...."

Youssefzadeh, on the other hand, discloses an integrated satellite/cell system and equipment that provides low-cost telephony services to remote-rural and other previously non-served areas. Local communications occurs through wireless cell technology with inter cell communications between cells and between cells and the public switch telephone network supported through existing, non-processing satellites. Referring to Figure 1 of Youssefzadeh, links 44 and 46 are in parallel, i.e. traffic channel connections are also switched. Hence, the signaling

connections and traffic channel connections are switched. Additionally, referring to Figure 2, the radio transmission unit is not used for transmission between the radio subsystem and the switching center (as required by claim 1), as unit 42 in Figure 1 is not between the switching center MSC 27 and the radio subsystem 22. Rather, unit 42 in Figure 2 is located between the PSTN earth terminal station 60 and the network controller 32. Similarly, there is no switching only of signaling connections from the transmission unit to the switching center, as required by claim 1.

Friman is cited as disclosing the step of "carrying out a transcoder and data rate adaptation function...taking place before said step pf carrying out the transcoder and data rate adaptation function in a respective said radio subsystem." However, Friman fails to disclose only signaling connections from the radio transmission unit to the switching center, as required by claims 1 and 10.

Since the recited method and structure are not disclosed by the applied prior art (either alone or in combination), the claims are patentable.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Kevin R. Spivak

Registration No.: 43,148

MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP

1650 Tysons Blvd, Suite 300

McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 760-7762 - Telephone

(703) 760- 7777 - Facsimile